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## AMERICAN ART NEWS

Entered as second-class matter, February 5, 1909,  
at New York Post Office under the Act,  
March 3, 1879.

Published Weekly from Oct. 15 to June 1 inclusive.  
Monthly from June 15 to Sept. 15 inclusive.

AMERICAN ART NEWS CO., INC.  
Publishers

15-17 East 40th Street  
Tel. 7180 Murray Hill

JAMES B. TOWNSEND, President and Treasurer.  
15-17 East 40th Street

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15-17 East 40th Street

## SUBSCRIPTION RATES

YEAR, IN ADVANCE	\$3.00
Canada	3.35
Foreign Countries	3.75
Single Copies	.10

WHERE ART NEWS MAY BE  
OBTAINED IN NEW YORK

Brentano's - Fifth Ave. and 27th St.  
E. H. & A. C. Friedrichs Co., 169 W. 57th St.

## WASHINGTON

Brentano's - F and 12th Streets

## BOSTON

Vendome News Co. - 261 Dartmouth St.

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## LONDON

Art News Office - 17 Old Burlington St.

Bottom, News Agent,  
32 Duke St., St. James, S. W.

## PARIS

Chaine & Simonson - 19 Rue Caumartin

Vol. XIX OCTOBER 16, 1920 No. 1

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## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

The AMERICAN ART NEWS today  
resumes its weekly issues after the  
summer or "off" art season, and begins  
its seventeenth year of publication and  
a new volume, No. XIX.

Owing to the continued high cost of  
printing production, paper and postage,  
it has been found necessary to advance  
advertising rates 25%, and unless these  
costs decrease by Jan. 1, 1921, next, it  
will be necessary to raise the subscrip-  
tion rate to \$4 a year and the sale price  
of individual numbers to 15 cents, as  
the journal is now being sent to its sub-  
scribers and sold at a loss.

All new subscriptions received be-  
fore Jan. 1, next, will be entered at the  
present rate of \$3, and those subscrip-  
tions expiring before that date will be  
renewed at \$3.50. This advance of  
advertising and subscription rates is  
made with the greatest reluctance and  
nearly a year later than more sub-  
stantial advances on the part of all  
other American periodicals.

Mr. Folsom, of the Folsom Galleries  
which have recently been removed from the  
Dreicer Building at Fifth Ave. and 46 St.  
to No. 104 W. 57 St., spent the summer be-  
tween N. Y. and his parents' residence in  
Cleveland, O. Mr. Defty continues in  
charge of the galleries and has been busily  
engaged in fitting up the same.

## THAT KANSAS CITY DE VINCI(?)

The "plot thickens" in the matter of  
the old picture, brought to Kansas City  
from France early last summer, and  
which its owners fondly and confidently  
believe is the original of the well-  
known "La Belle Ferroniere," that  
wonderful presentment of the fair Isa-  
belle of Mantua or Lucrezia of Milan.  
A painting with the same title has  
long hung in the Louvre and this work  
for many years has been thought to  
have been the work of Leonardo da  
Vinci, although of late, some critics and  
"experts" have given it to Boltraffio,  
the great Florentine's follower and  
pupil.

The owners of the picture now in  
Kansas City now base their claim as  
to its being a veritable work by Da  
Vinci upon its long possession by the  
family of the French wife of a young  
American army officer, and the written  
opinion of a Paris "expert," M. George  
Sortais, who they state positively gives  
the work to Da Vinci. They have been  
fortunate enough to enlist the aid and  
sympathies of a Mr. John T. Harding,  
a lawyer and art lover of Kansas City,  
who has seemingly convinced himself  
of the authenticity of the picture and  
who is conducting a campaign in its be-  
half.

It appears that the matter has as-  
sumed such proportions in the Middle  
West that a syndicate of newspapers  
recently engaged and sent to Paris a  
special agent to investigate the history  
of the painting, and obtain all possible  
information regarding it and while this  
agent has not yet made his report pub-  
lic, Mr. Harding states that his story  
of his searching is most encouraging  
and that "the director of the Louvre  
has offered to purchase the work." It  
would be interesting to know just who  
this newspaper agent is, as also his  
qualifications for such an investigation.

While it is claimed by the parties in-  
terested that the sale of the picture has  
been delayed, if not prevented, by  
doubts as to its authorship expressed,  
they assert, by Sir Joseph Duveen, a  
Louvre Director and by our humorous  
and innocent reference to "A Da Vinci  
in a Stockyard Town," we must dis-  
claim, for ourselves, at least, any in-  
tention or desire to impute any wrong  
intention on the part of the owners of  
the work or others interested in it, and  
certainly any assertion that the paint-  
ing is a "fake" or "spurious" one, as  
has been intimated. It is undoubtedly  
an old picture of good quality and in-  
teresting, but if its owners and their  
friend and ally, Mr. Harding (we re-  
serve judgment as to the Western  
newspaper agent's opinion until we can  
know more about him), were versed in  
the tracing, identification and "expertising"  
of Old Masters, they would under-  
stand that family ownership and tradi-  
tion and even written favorable en-  
dorsements by a not widely known  
French "expert," do not and will not  
carry conviction to connoisseurs and  
collectors, especially in the case of so  
unprolific a painter as Da Vinci.

Mr. F. K. M. Rehn, of No. 6 W. 50 St.,  
with Mrs. Rehn spent the summer at his  
residence at Magnolia, Mass., with a trip to  
the Thousand Islands. He is now at his  
gallery.

## OBITUARY



Samuel P. Avery

Samuel Putnam Avery, the last, with the  
exception of Mr. Julius Oehme, still living  
in N. Y. at an advanced age, of the promi-  
nent American art dealers of the last half  
of the XIX century, died at his home at  
Hartford, Conn., Sept. 25 last aged 73.

Mr. Avery was born in Brooklyn, N. Y.,  
Oct. 7, 1847, the son of Samuel Putnam  
Avery and Mary (Ogden) Avery. He was  
educated in N. Y., and in 1886 succeeded  
his father as head of probably the largest  
art business in the country at that time, the  
elder Avery having amassed a fortune,  
chiefly through his sales of pictures to the  
late William H. Vanderbilt, August Bel-  
mont, Marshall O. Roberts, William Tilden  
Blodgett, Henry Marquand and other emi-  
nent American collectors of that period.

Mr. Avery was the first New York busi-  
ness man to move into the up-town busi-  
ness district and established himself at No.  
368 Fifth Ave. in 1886. He was a pioneer  
in this move which attracted wide atten-  
tion at that time as there were then no  
substantial business buildings above  
Twenty-third St. He made it a practice to  
go abroad every year and had acquired a  
nation-wide reputation for his success in  
introducing paintings by the modern school  
of artists. In 1902 he retired from active  
business, moving to Hartford in 1909. Since  
then he had made his residence in Hart-  
ford, although spending considerable time  
in N. Y.

## Many Fine Gifts

Mr. Avery had widely varied interests and  
had given endowments for the N. Y. Pub-  
lic Library, the N. Y. Zoological Society,  
the Historical Society, the Brooklyn Insti-  
tute, the Society for the Preservation of  
New England Antiquities, and the Ameri-  
can Academy of Science at Phila. The N.  
Y. Zoological Society was without endow-  
ment up to the time that Mr. Avery became  
active in its behalf.

To the Brooklyn Museum Mr. Avery pre-  
sented the largest collection of Chinese  
Cloisonne and B. C. Chinese bronzes in  
America.

Mr. Avery's gifts to the Morgan Memorial  
in Hartford were very numerous and of  
widely varied character, some of great  
value. He had also donated generously to  
museums in Boston, Phila., the Chicago  
Art Institute, and in Toledo, O., he started  
a movement for educating children along  
museum lines.

He was a member of the N. Y. Society  
of the Sons of the American Revolution  
and the N. Y. Society of Colonial Wars, a  
fellow in perpetuity of the Metropolitan  
Museum, a member of the N. Y. Genealogi-  
cal and Biographical Society, and a founder  
of the Samuel Putnam Avery Art fund of  
that society and a member of many mu-  
seums and art societies.

## An Appreciative Tribute

The following extracts are taken from  
an appreciative tribute to Mr. Avery by  
Mr. Royal Cortissoz in the N. Y. Tribune  
Sept. 28 last:

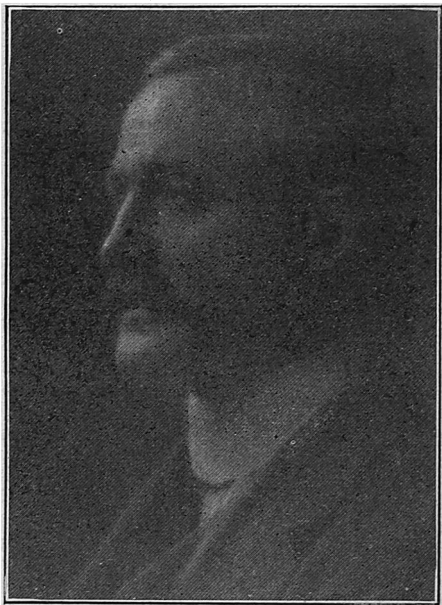
"One reflection is inevitable among the  
many friends who mourn the recent death  
of Samuel P. Avery at his home in Hart-  
ford. How like his father he was! they  
are bound to exclaim. And the allusion,  
which has affection in it, is one significant  
also of the broad appreciation which must  
follow upon acquaintance with the facts of  
his career. The younger Avery was like  
the elder in that he had a kindly, lovable  
personality. The one was like the other,  
moreover, in standing for a tradition of  
good taste. Both were dealers in works  
of art. Both thought of the interests of art  
as well as of the commercial issues with  
which they were concerned.

"In the little gallery which the younger  
Avery maintained for many years in Fifth  
Ave., just above Thirty-fourth St., he had  
a way of showing good pictures. He, too,

interested himself in the Barbizon men, and  
he, too, like his father, was a sagacious  
eclectic, dealing in the works of all the  
schools—so that they were artistic. Nor did  
he neglect the paintings of his countrymen,  
early and late. He was bred up to a high  
standard and he maintained it.

"For a long time in his retirement he  
gave himself to the distinctive hobby of his  
life, ancient Chinese Cloisonne. As the sub-  
ject grew upon him he assembled one of  
the finest groups in the world of rare and  
beautiful pieces and finally gave them to  
the Brooklyn Museum in 1909. The cata-  
log ran to generous numbers then, but he  
was always adding to the collection, always  
interesting himself in its installation, and it  
is good to know that for some years before  
his death he had the satisfaction of seeing  
his treasures making a really magnificent  
display in a public institution.

"The public is in his debt for this particu-  
lar gift, but those who knew him deplore  
his loss with a tender emotion, tinged  
their admiration for what he gave and did  
as a connoisseur. They will linger over the  
memory of the man. They will think of  
him as he was on his beloved little island  
in the north, dedicated to the quiet joys  
of fishing, laughing over the fun of life in  
the woods. He was a good companion, a  
man who had affections and inspired them."



W. H. de B. Nelson

William H. de Beauvoir Nelson, for nearly  
eight years past editor of the International  
Studio, in this city, and who was in editorial  
charge of the AMERICAN ART NEWS during  
the absence of the latter journal's editor in  
Europe the past summer, died in the Union  
Hospital (Bronx) Sept. 27 last of uraemic  
poisoning, after an illness of ten days. He  
was taken ill while putting the ART NEWS  
of Sept. 16 to press and literally "died in  
harness."

Mr. Nelson, whose death received too  
scant notice in the dailies, had an unusually  
attractive personality, which, with his fine  
artistic sense and cultivation, made him a  
most agreeable companion. His death comes  
with a deep sense of personal loss, not only  
to the editor of the ART NEWS and his office  
associates, but to a wide circle of artist and  
literary friends. He was born in England  
in 1861, and was therefore 59 years old. He  
was the son of the late William Nelson of  
the Indian Civil Service, and inherited from  
his mother, who was a member of the so-  
cially prominent and wealthy De Beauvoir  
family, a goodly fortune. Up to 1912, soon  
after the death of his first wife, who was a  
Miss Armour of England, he led the easy  
life of a wealthy English country gentleman.  
Unfortunately investments deprived him of  
his fortune at that period, and he applied to  
Mr. John Lane, the London publisher, and  
whose house in America publishes the Inter-  
national Studio, through arrangement with  
the London Studio, for a position. Mr. Lane,  
who knew Mr. Nelson's family, appointed  
him editor of the International Studio, and  
he came to N. Y. with his young second  
wife, who was Miss Gladys Harris of Nor-  
folkshire, England, and who, with two  
young children, survive him. Of his two  
sons by his first wife, the elder, Hamilton,  
was killed in the war, and the younger, Chol-  
mondeley, who is in the British Navy, is now  
en route for N. Y., ignorant of his father's  
death.

Although without journalistic or editorial  
experience or training, Mr. Nelson's supe-  
rior education and cultivation, for he had  
been a great traveler, soon enabled him,  
especially as he had fine artistic taste and  
good knowledge, and in fact was a water-  
colorist of good ability, having studied in  
Germany—to become efficient in his new  
post. He was of a genial and sociable tem-  
perament and had acquired an acquaintance  
and friendship with many American artists.  
He was a member of the Salmagundi Club.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry E. Huntington, who  
have been abroad the past summer, will sail  
from Cherbourg on the Mauretania today.